

The Bangor Beacon Community (BBC), comprised of 12 Partners and led by EMHS, is working to improve the health of chronically ill people in the Bangor region through sustainable care coordination that is facilitated by Health Information Technology (HIT). More than a dozen additional statewide collaborators are working to ensure that the improved outcomes brought about through BBC learning and health information exchange, are extended throughout the State of Maine. The BBC is supported through a three year, \$12.75 million grant from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for HIT.

### **Collaborative Highlights and Patient Centered Strategy**

Leadership and clinical teams and companion task forces have met multiple times. Planning for the Community Launch and first Statewide Advisory Committee gathering are underway. On reflection of the summer retreat, one leader remarked through a feedback survey, "I am struck with the ease with which participants from multiple systems work together." Since then:

- The BBC Leadership Team members (all 12 of the BBC Partners plus the Maine Office of the State Coordinator for Health IT and the City of Bangor Health and Community Services) developed a working vision statement: We envision a future in which we are highly interconnected, functional and stable technologically, where people with chronic disease experience coordinated care wherever they present themselves along the continuum and that the data we collect is patient centered and results in valuable learning.
- The BBC Clinical Leadership Team led by Jim Raczek, MD, of EMMC, formed several clinical task forces to develop common definitions, outcomes measures, and standards for performance improvement; and to develop the care management roles for home care and mental health. Draft Outcome Measures were submitted to ONC on August 10.
- The Statewide Advisory Committee convenes for the first time on September 30 with Michelle Hood as chair. Developing the invitation list.
- National Beacon Leadership will attend a Community Launch in Bangor with ONC officials on September 30, 2010. Media coverage is anticipated.

### **Bangor Beacon Community Partners**

EMHS  
The Acadia Hospital  
Community Health  
and Counseling  
Eastern Maine  
Community College  
Eastern Maine  
HomeCare  
Eastern Maine  
Medical Center  
HealthInfoNet  
Maine Primary  
Care Association  
Penobscot  
Community  
Health Care  
Ross Manor  
St. Joseph  
Healthcare  
Stillwater Healthcare

### **Grant Management**

With the arrival of full time BBC staff, we are establishing BBC program management, including identifying sub-projects, BBC communications, building our website (www.bangorbeaconcommunity.org), and developing plans for community outreach. Thanks to the responsiveness of our 11 Partners, EMHS continues to meet ONC deadlines and actively participates in ONC conference calls.

### **Challenges/Opportunities**

Our vision and plans are well received by ONC. BBC Partners have a rich and significant foundation in EMR and health information technology, and Bangor has been called the "Beacon among Beacons" by ONC. Our greatest challenge (and opportunity) at present is reexamining our scope to ensure it accurately reflects our ambition, meets ONC requirements, and is manageable with the resources we have identified and qualified for this work.